APRIL 2002-MARCH 2002

Sl. No.	Minister	Number of Flights
1.	Health & Family Welfare	3
2.	Agriculture	1
3.	External Affairs	1

APRIL 2002-MARCH 2003

Sl.No.	Minister	Number of Flights
1.	External Affairs	8
2.	Finance	5
3.	Shipping	1
4.	Railways	1

APRIL 2003-MARCH 2004

Sl.No.	Minister	Number of Flights
1.	Finance	5
2.	External Affairs	3

Unmanned ship taken into Custody at Nicobar Coast

†3394. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in January, 2006 an unmanned ship was found at the Nicobar Coast which was taken into custody by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date of landing the said ship alongwith the date on which this has come into the knowledge of the Coast Guard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of the articles found in the ship and the purpose of the arrival of the ship there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) An unmanned Thai sail yacht Catamaran Kilo was sighted near the East coast of Trinket Island on the evening of 19.01.2006 and the Inspector General Coast Guard Regional Headquarters, Port Blair was intimated about the same by the State Police Department. The Coast Guard Ship Bhikaji Cama reached Trinket Island at 2125 Hrs on the same evening and towed the yacht to Port Blair on 21.01.2006.

The yacht was missing since 17th December, 2005 from Kata beach in Thailand after participating in the King's Cup. The vessel Kilo being a yacht was not carrying any cargo. There were no signs on the yacht indicating presence of persons sailing from Kata beach to Trinket. The inspection also indicated that the vessel had dragged her anchor off Kata beach and subsequently got drifted to Trinket.

Retiring MIG 21s and MIG 25s

3395. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to retire the last of IAF's secret planes MIG 25;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to retire MIG 21s; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DERENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has planned to phase out the Russian Mig-25 by 2006-2007 due to expiry of Calendar Life (CL)/Total Technical Life (TTL) of the aircraft.

(c) and (d) Mig-21 aircraft will be phased out from the Indian Air Force after expiry of its Calendar Life (CL)/Total Technical Life (TTL).